

## IN THE OLD CITY OF CANALS.

## VIATOR TELLS OF HIS ARRIVAL IN GOOD OLD VENICE.

On His Way to That Famous Spot he Passed Most Magnificent Mountain Scenery, Some of Which, he Says, Words Cannot Begin to Describe—A Pathetic Incident.

Dresden, Feb. 11, 1895.  
To the Editor of the JOURNAL AND COURIER:  
There are many roads leading to Venice from the four points of the compass; the beautiful queen of the Adriatic can be approached by the iron rail or by steamer up the great gulf branching north from the Mediterranean, but to my mind the grandest and most sublime approach to this beautiful city is by rail from Vienna, which is four hundred miles to the north. There are two splendid railroads between Vienna and Venice. One is via Graz and Trieste, over which I traveled some years ago, and a magnificent route it is; the other is via the little Italian village of Pontebba.

Both of these routes lead over the Semmering Alps and are renowned for the beauty of the scenery along their line of travel. We bought our tickets via Pontebba, and leaving the railroad station quite early in the morning, we crossed a wide plain for about fifty miles, passing very many pretty villages, where many handsome villas were to be seen built upon conspicuous situations.

We rushed rapidly through the wine district, admiring the broad fields covered with green vines laden with rich clusters of grapes. Austria is celebrated for its abundant and excellent wines, and the value of the product of Bohemian, Austrian and Hungarian vines is something fabulous. Near the Schneeberg, which is over seven thousand feet high and visible from its base to its summit, is to be seen the ancient castle of Seebenstein, one of the many properties of that famous prince among land owners, Prince Lichtenstein. The Semmering railroad is one of the finest in the world; it leaves the plains at the little village of Gloquitz and gradually and slowly ascends to the hamlet of Klamn, nearly three thousand feet above the plain; here is a partly ruined castle owned by Prince Lichtenstein; it is situated on a steep precipice. We pass over viaducts and crawl through long tunnels constantly ascending, and at last, after passing through a tunnel one mile long, we reach the highest part of the Semmering, the boundary between Austria and Styria, and then commences the descent. Words are simply inadequate to give any idea of the magnificent scenery at this point.

It seemed as if the old Titans had been hard at work and had piled "Pelion" upon "Ossa" and "Alps upon the summits of Alps."

Grand and majestic mountain sides stretched far upward clad with magnificent forests to the very limit of vegetable growth, and bare cold rocks stretched still heavenward, which seemed to tell of primeval ages. Lovely valleys wound far below us through which running streams seemed ever to glide, rejoicing to rush into the embrace of the ocean, which like a loadstone attracts the waters from every stream and river, and which strange to say, although its longings are constantly gratified, is never filled or satisfied. Far below us we notice pretty villages with their miniature white houses stretching far away and splendid farms rejoicing in abundant wheat fields. It may surprise some of my readers to learn that the quality of the wheat grown in Austria, more particularly in Hungary, is the finest known in the world, and the "Hungarian process" of milling wheat revolutionized the milling industry of the United States and other countries. All of the large flouring mills in the United States have adopted the "Hungarian process" for obvious reasons.

All about us the scenery is very beautiful and varied; as we advance the surroundings increase in loveliness. Rarely are mountains seen in such combined majesty as here. At every step beauty alternates with grandeur. The views remind me of the words which Carlyle put into the mouth of old "Teufelsdröckh": "The savage peaks all glowing of gold and amethyst like giant spirits of the wilderness, there in their silence, in their solitude ever as on the night when Noah's deluge first dried." The engineers were brave men to build this iron road through and over these mountains; their hearts, like the bold sailors of which Horace sang, "were clad with triple steel." If the ascent of the mountains was so grand, the descent was even more so as we seemed almost to fly through the air. We passed many places of interest, summer resorts and watering places, with famous and fashionable sanitariums.

Loeben, which we passed on our journey downwards, is a lovely place with a glorious view stretching far away into upper Styria. At this town the negotiations between Napoleon and the Austrians just before the peace of Campo Formio took place in 1797. Many fine old ancestral castles are to be seen in the neighborhood, for here dwelt many of the old Corinthian noble families. We continue to pass through a very interesting and historic country, the views of which reminded me of the views of a stereopticon on the grandest possible scale.

St. Veit, Villach and Tarvis are beautiful beyond description. Balfanz on the water-shed between the Black sea and the Adriatic commands one of the grandest views in eastern Europe. Two hundred and seventy miles south of Vienna we arrive at "Pontebba," this is a small village on the Italian border, and just as we entered it all of the passengers were on the alert, and as we crossed the very center of the bridge which spanned the little mountain torrent, which forms the boundary line between the territories of Austria and Italy, we felt a thrill of joy, as

we exclaimed "Italia at last! Italia!" The land of history, of marvelous and glorious beauty, the home of art, that beautiful land where the golden sun sheds his glorious beams on mountain-side and silver lake, and paints the landscape with unfading color, at last! Now as we have passed from the domain of Germany, and by this term I refer to the Germanic race as represented by Germany proper, and of course Austria, my readers will pardon me while I detain them a moment to give a slight tribute to the institutions and material civilization of that grand race among whom I have dwelt for a considerable time. The Germans are a peculiarly patient, law-abiding, industrious people, and when one is patient, obedient and respectful to law, he is advancing in the right direction towards a successful solution of what we call one's "calling" or "life's work."

The German laws are very far-reaching and protect the citizens, and every German child's first lesson is to obey the law, and from the obedience of millions of citizens has come a splendid development and condition of things in the varied branches of their high order of civilization. Splendid forests cover large portions of Germany and Austria, and the forest laws are rigidly obeyed by all. No such thing as has taken place in Michigan can ever happen here. In the above and in other states whose forests have been ruthlessly and shamefully destroyed, thus entailing not only great pecuniary loss to those commonwealths, but broad tracts of virgin lands have in consequence become waste and arid. German law demands that for every tree cut down a new one shall be planted, and so perfectly carried out is this system that the German forests even in the far-away provinces are never depleted.

The greatest secret of German success is economy; this is a word almost unknown in the United States. Travelers who visit our country are astonished, nay, appalled, at the boundless waste and extravagance which they behold on every side. From the kitchens of our homes to the offices of our gigantic corporations, there is observable a most wilful waste and extravagance, and this "American extravagance" has become a by-word all over the world. Economy is not a mere synonym for meanness, and the thrift and economy of the Germans has unlocked to them the trading ports in various parts of the globe. Their clever merchants are growing rich in the great cities of China, Japan, India, Australia and South America, while their competitors cannot hold their own, but are growing poorer; in other words, the Germans are fast crowding their competitors to the wall. German manufactured goods are even supplanting British goods in the British East India markets. Out of seventy-five hundred pianos which were imported in 1892 into Australia less than eight hundred were of British manufacture, the remaining sixty-seven hundred were imported from Germany. There are nearly two hundred ocean steamers in the "North German Lloyd" and "Hamburg-American Co." These companies manage to pay dividends, while many other competing lines of other nations have dropped that word from their vocabulary.

The German government is a paternal government, and by honest, not bogus, inspectors (who in some countries can be bought for even a modest sum) examine all kinds of food thoroughly, and thereby know that "the people" have wholesome food. And this inspection embraces every possible kind of food, as well as water, wines, beer, &c., &c. Even the very column of black smoke which in some other countries follows behind the railway trains is in Germany consumed by a clever contrivance, and every stoker and fireman must go first to the government school (say Leipzig) and learn how to handle coal and how to pitch the coals hotly into the engine fires, thus extraneously causing nearly twenty-five per cent. of that article to be blown unconsumed through the smoke stack; they must learn how to secure the greatest and best result from the coal, and when these men get their "certificates" they are then permitted to enter upon their duties.

Again, where in the world is there any system of education which can equal that of Prussia, which has outranked all others for over a century, and from which other systems have copied. The laws in respect to game and fish have been implicitly obeyed for centuries. Germany stands at the zenith of the scientific world; her men of science and polished literature are legion. German universities attract hundreds of graduates of foreign colleges and thousands take advantage of the past graduate courses to be enjoyed under the management of German professors of the very highest order. German influence, in every department in science and letters is keenly felt to the remotest ends of the globe. The countless books which are published at Leipzig and Berlin find their way to the libraries of scholars and families in all countries. Again, the manufactured goods of Saxony and northern Germany will, if their development continues as rapidly during the coming ten years as it has during the decade which has just passed, completely crowd out their competitors, and Germany will supply the world. The untraveled, honest, average American is too apt to think that no good thing can be found beyond the borders of our grand America, just as in the old days the New England skipper asserted that there was no Sabbath to the westward of Cape Horn, but there was just the same. I do not call Germany a paradise; very far from it, but she can show us many secrets of success which we have never dreamed of, and the proof of this success is witnessed in the success of Germans in all the great cities of the world.

Look for a moment at the German element in the United States; this is clearly observable throughout the length and breadth of the land; it is one of the strongest factors of our American civilization. In Pennsylvania alone the wealth of the Germans and their descendants indicates the shift of German thought, and at its bottom is the bed rock of strict economy and thrift, which originally came over with them from the Fatherland. In the city of Philadelphia, it is said, there are over one hundred millionaires, and the greater number of these are either Germans or possess German names. When the Romans first made their incursions into the territory of the Germans, they were like rats, and gave the Romans no end of trouble. Even in that remote period the Germans were in many ways superior to their conquerors, the Romans.

Germany was a tribal nation, filled with internal feuds and intestine war, and this was the order of affairs for many centuries. Germany and the Germans are still to be found just where the Roman scouts first looked down upon them from the mountain tops. Where are the Romans? Is it a case of the survival of the fittest?

United Germany is a great nation; her achievements have been grand and on a grand scale, and the indications of future successful development are very evident. I fear I may have wearied your readers with a long panegyric upon Germany—too long I fear—so let us return to Italy.

At Pontebba the Italian customs officials, with three-cornered chapeaux and cumbersome great swords and coats, poked their Italian noses into the contents of our trunks and boxes, thereby causing no end of annoyance, and to our annoyance. We were delighted to again hear the pipe of the shrill engine-whistle and feel ourselves again starting southward further into Italy.

We sped rapidly down towards the Adriatic, and could not tire of the scenery about us, which seemed even finer than the views which delighted us in the morning.

We traversed the wild ravine of the Fella, remarkable for the grandeur of the scenery and the boldness displayed in the construction of the line of railroad. We rushed along through twenty-four tunnels and across many viaducts, and at times crept right along the very edge of a steep, dizzy precipice.

At Dogna, which is at the mouth of the valley, stands the great Pyramidal mountain of the same name; it is ten thousand feet high. After a charming ride from Pontebba we reached Udine, the ancient Udina, a Venice in miniature. The old castle is situated on a hill, which was thrown up by Attila, the king of the Huns, in order that he might survey the conflagration of Aquila. This was very long ago in the year 452. Aquila is a city of the Romans B. C. 180, and in the time of Augustus boasted a population of one hundred thousand.

At Mestre Venice is seen rising from the blue waves of the Adriatic, and after crossing the long bridge of two hundred and twenty-two arches of thirty feet span each, the entire length of which is two and one-half miles, we come to a full stop, and as the guards cry out "Venetia!" we descend from our carriage and find ourselves in a spacious railroad station; in the space of five minutes we collect our luggage and at once take our seats in a very long black gondola, two gaily and gaudily attired gondoliers propel us through a network of wonderful canals, passing beneath very many bridges, in the direction of our Hotel.

I had visited this beautiful city before; still it was a singular experience to thread the canals of a city whose very name centuries ago carried terror to many cities, and whose history itself has now well nigh ceased. Every palace, every bridge, every church, seemed to cry aloud of the past, and a spirit of sadness and departed glory appeared to hover over all. Still Venice is Venice, and many consider it the most beautiful and wonderful city in the world. In its unique loveliness Venice reigns without a peer.

No city surely can point to a more glorious past history and to grander achievements. My thoughts of the glory of old Venice were suddenly interrupted as we shot out from the darkness of a narrow canal into the broad waters of the Grand canal which reflected the beams of the moon as we passed through a perfect fleet of gondolas which surrounded two music boats in which musicians with piano, violoncello and other instruments accompanied singers who sweetly sang the Venetian gondolier songs. At last we arrived safe, but weary at the steps of our hotel, situated on the Grand canal directly opposite that wondrously beautiful church of "St. Mark" (St. Marco). Our host met us with his hands filled with lighted candles and escorted us to the dining room, we supped heartily and soon afterwards retired to rest.

When I arose on the following morning I must confess that it did seem strange and rather singular to find canals in the place of streets, and hundreds of gondolas conveying passengers and goods in all directions, as we watched the tide ebb and flow at our very door steps. It is a singular fact that horses are never seen in Venice, for such animals are unnecessary; their bulk would block and obstruct the narrow lanes. There are fifteen thousand houses and palaces built on piles; the city is seven miles in circumference, comprising one hundred and seventeen small islands formed by one hundred and fifty canals and joined together by nearly four hundred bridges. In the palmy and glorious days of Venice there were two hundred thousand inhabitants; the population declined to ninety thousand just after the destruction of the republic; at the present day one hundred and thirty thousand people call Venice their home; of these at least twenty-five per cent. are aliens. There is a very great number of "Calli" or narrow lanes, many not more than five or six feet wide, paved with asphalt or broad flat flag stones, with tall buildings rising directly upward on either side. To find one's way about is like entering the maze of the fabulous labyrinth of Crete; directly one starts he is hopelessly lost, but after a month's sojourn I came to know clearly how to go and come, and became quite familiar with the intricacies of dark alleys through which it is a delight to roam. Many of the grandest buildings in Venice are hidden away in the narrowest and most unapproachable places. Gondolas are to be had for the modest sum of twenty cents for the first hour and ten cents for each additional hour, a cheap method of travel; and to row through the various canals and visit the palaces which surround you on every side is a delightful experience. The palaces are simply indescribable; they are glorious and grand; in fact I can find no adjective to describe their grandeur. The cost of their construction must have been in proportion to their magnitude, which is on a very large scale. Most of them are now owned by the Jews, whose Jewish ancestors were nightly herded and penned in the "Ghetts" in the days of old, (and here is a thought for moralists to expand). The former proprietors, who were princes and nobles of vast wealth, have disappeared, and even their descendants have vanished; their palatial marble homes remain, but almost every one owned and occupied by the hated Jew. Another instance, no doubt, of the "survival of the fittest." There is a poor battered old gondolier who

boasts a splendid name and dally rows travelers by the glorious home of his ancestors; he is the legitimate scion of one of the noblest families of Venice of the "olden" or rather the "golden" days. To see him quietly turn his sun-browned face upwards towards "the old home" is one of the most pathetic sights I have ever witnessed. Some of the palaces such as "Foscari," "Rezzonigo," "Pisani," "Corner della Regina," in which that grandest of women, "Catherine Cornaro," first saw the light of day, and scores of other palaces, have of late been sold to the Jews at low rates. Ten or twenty thousand pounds can now buy a splendid Venetian palace, and scores of Jews now boast of their grand homes on the "Grand canal." The mills of the Gods grind slow but very fine, and how the "wheel has turned round" in Venice!

A word as to the history of Venice. Canals on a very large scale were constructed in the district of "Venetia" as long ago as 400 B. C. or twenty-three hundred years ago. The history of Venice is very ancient and interesting, and intimately connected with that of Rome itself. The most famous of medieval states took its rise here from very small beginnings. Her history was old and interesting as long ago as the year 700, when Anastasius, the first Doge, entered upon his official duties. At an early period Venice became the connecting link between the Orient and Europe; she was the great depot of the traffic between the eastern and western worlds. Venice became a great commercial city and consequently the wealthiest city on the globe. She planted many rich colonies, and they in turn poured untold wealth into her lap. Every step one takes and wherever one turns his eyes in Venice there is evidence that the material wealth of this ancient city must have been of great magnitude, nay, rather inexhaustible. Venice made many conquests on the main land and became one of the chief Italian powers, and thus became involved in constant war. She conquered very many important cities in Italy and erected in all their palaces and towers the name of St. Mark (the patron saint of Venice) as token of their subjugation. The area in Italy thus conquered by Venice was over thirteen thousand square miles, besides large possessions on the Dalmatian coasts and settlements in the Levant. Venice at last became too rich and careless (the old story of Rome and other great cities), she trembled, tottered and fell at the feet of her enemies.

The republic was completely overthrown by Napoleon in 1797. French troops entered this historical city and this was the first occasion in which it had ever been occupied by an enemy. What a glorious history is that. Venice was adjudged to Austria in 1797. In 1805 the Austrians were forced to cede it to Italy. It became a plaything, a shuttlecock. When Napoleon fell and was packed off to St. Helena it was handed back to Austria. Again in 1866 Venice was ceded to Italy and became part and parcel of that power, to which by the order of things it should belong. In my next I shall have something to say about the sights of Venice, a city perfectly filled with glorious history, and were it possible for any of my readers to visit our famous city in Europe, I would by all means suggest a visit to this lovely city, which sits on her throne at the head of the beautiful blue Adriatic.

VIATOR.

Blind Specials.  
Bridgeport, March 4.—The Union this morning says the Law and Order league will prefer charges against the blind specialists and dilatory police officers and officials who permitted the sale of liquors at the Concordia ball. It says it has authoritative information that this course will be pursued, except for one possible contingency that may arise, but which will probably not arise. Whether the charges will include more than subordinates of the force is not determined, but the league is far from pleased with the attitude of Captain Birmingham and affects to believe that if he had wished the law enforced the night of the ball it would have been enforced. The view is taken that he is even more to blame than his subordinates, upon whose shoulders was placed the burden of responsibility of treating an infraction of the law which had been winked at by the department for years.

St. Ignatius T. A. B.  
St. Ignatius T. A. B. and L. society will hold a smoker on Thursday evening. A pool tournament will take place between representatives from the St. Aloysius and St. Ignatius societies, and refreshments will be served. Jeremiah J. Cohan resigned as financial secretary and Peter J. Hope was chosen as his successor. William Carroll was elected recording secretary. Six applicants for membership were admitted.

For the Red Men.  
Hammonasset Tribe No. 19, O. R. M., will give an entertainment this evening, March 5, at 8 o'clock. Over one hundred reception views will be shown. Brothers are cordially invited. Bring your friends with you.

Coming Wedding.  
Cards will be shortly issued announcing the coming marriage of Serfrigid Herman to Miss Carrie G. Weil, formerly one of Welch school's most popular and best teachers. The ceremony will occur March 17 at Delbe's parlors, 825 Chapel street.

Lenten Services at St. Luke's.  
A course of sermons on Thursday and Sunday nights during Lent will be preached in St. Luke's church during Lent. The sermon next Thursday night will be preached by the Rev. Stewart Means of St. John's church. Other preachers in the course will be the Rev. E. S. Lines, the Rev. William A. Beardsley and the Rev. H. McCrea. The Rev. Dr. Sylvester Clark of Berkeley Divinity school, Middletown, preached at the church Sunday night. Among the preachers in this course will be the Rev. Canon Knowles of Trinity, New York, and the Rev. R. L. Nichols, subwarden of the community of St. John Baptist, New York. Addresses will be given on Tuesdays and Fridays at 4:30 o'clock and on Wednesdays at 10:30 o'clock. The holy communion will be celebrated on Sunday at 11 and on Fridays at 7 a. m.

K. of P.  
Ezel lodge No. 3, Knights of Pythias, will confer the rank of knight this evening on three candidates. All members are requested to be present.

## SOUTHINGTON.

## Died of Heart Trouble.

March 4.—John Merritt Beecher died yesterday about noon at the home of L. Noble Beecher, his brother, on North Main street. Death was due to heart disease and was very sudden, the first attack being late Saturday night. He was about seventy years old.  
Mr. Beecher was well known to many of the older residents of the town. Up to last December he has not been a resident here in many years. Along about 1870, a tailor by trade, he was engaged in that capacity by Gales & Robbins as a cutter in what is now Judge Holcomb's office. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home of his brother, L. Noble Beecher.

## Adelphi Lite.

The semi-annual meeting of the Adelphi Literary association was held on Sunday. The following were elected: A. Johnson, president; H. Fisher, vice president; L. Spear, financial secretary; A. S. Rogowski, recording secretary; M. Lambert, treasurer.

## In the Box Making Line.

The Cornell Paper company and the Rex Paper Box company, the two recently organized corporations which are to enter into competition with the National Folding Box and Paper company of this city, will start their mills and factory, which are located in Southford, next Monday. Colonel E. Shelton Cornell is president of the paper company, and ex-Senator Alexander C. Robertson of Montville is president of the box company.

Although they are separate organizations the two concerns are made up of the same stockholders and will work together. W. C. Foote, formerly with Malley, Neely & Co., has become interested in the concern and will have charge of the sales department.

The new concern will make a complete line of folding boxes, egg carriers, oyster boxes, Rex anti-rust paper and a large variety of other paper.  
The box factory will start in with about 150 hands and the paper factory with about 100. It is stated that the concern has already secured a large number of orders.

## ACCEPTS A CALL.

To the Olivet Baptist Church.  
The call extended to Rev. Allyn K. Foster of Somerset, Ky., by the Olivet Baptist church on Dixwell avenue, has been accepted, and the Rev. Mr. Foster will begin his pastoral duties in this city May 1. He preached here December 26, and members of the congregation were greatly pleased with him.  
He is a native of Baltimore, Md., and is a graduate of the Louisville Baptist Theological seminary.

## THAT LAST TOWN MEETING.

A Petition is Being Circulated for Another One.

Inasmuch as doubt has been cast on the vote of the recent town meeting in reference to the consolidation of the town and city, such vote not specifying as to whether the town should be merged into the city, or vice versa, a petition has been started calling for another town meeting on or before March 15.

J. J. Matthews and others have started a petition for a special town meeting. Several signers have already written their names in answer. As according to law only twenty citizens are required to give approval to the application for a special meeting, the thing may be said to be all but completed. The selectmen will decide in the case.

## DEATH OF MRS. WILLIAM ELLIS.

A Member of the Methodist Church for Fifty-five Years—An Aged Westville Resident.

The death of Mrs. William Ellis at the age of eighty-five occurred in Westville yesterday. Her husband, the late William Ellis, died nine years ago and was for many years a member of the Methodist church. Mrs. Ellis also had been a member of that church for fifty-five years. She leaves one daughter, living in Westville, with whom she resided.

The funeral will be held from the late residence on Gilbert street, Westville, to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

## Increase of Stock.

The Eagle Bicycle Manufacturing company of Torrington has filed a certificate of increase of capital stock from \$50,000 to \$100,000 with the secretary of state.

The Koriza company of New Haven has filed a certificate of increase of capital stock from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

## Not Heard From Yet.

Not a word has yet been heard concerning the whereabouts of William Vetterman, who disappeared from his home, 143 Frank street, two weeks ago Sunday, and his son, Paul Vetterman, thoroughly believes that he has committed suicide owing to despondency.

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## Allcock's Porous Plaster

the most marvelous external remedy known for all sorts of pains and aches in the back, limbs, chest or side.

Do Not Be Persuaded to accept a substitute. "Allcock's" has never been equalled.

Allcock's Corn Shields, Allcock's Bunion Shields, Have no equal as a relief and cure for corns and bunions.

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stand at the front. The longer in use the stronger is their position.



Low prices and more pairs for selection make our Winter Sale now in progress the most popular one that we have ever advertised.

\$1.38 and \$2.48 are prices attached to over twelve hundred pairs of Ladies' Button and Lace Boots. Nearly every style that we have sold during the past year is represented.

\$2.28, \$2.95 and \$3.45 are sale figures for Gentlemen's Russet and Black Calf Shoes selected from our shelves, hand-sewed, hand welt, and Goodyear stitched; many of these formerly selling for \$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00 and \$8.00.

We shall continue for some days to offer special bargains in Boys' and Misses' Shoes. Boys' sizes thrown out are marked \$1.35, Misses' 98 cents. They are all good fitting and will do service.

## The New Haven Shoe Company,

842-846 Chapel Street, New Haven, Conn.

## Crisp Pastry

Free from all the disagreeable greasy effects that result from the use of lard will be had, if COTTOLINE is used. Fish and cakes fried in it are simply delicious because it adds a flavor to them that cannot possibly be obtained from the use of any other frying material. Get the genuine COTTOLINE, as there are numerous questionable imitations. The trade mark given here is on each pail. Sold in 3 and 5 lb. pails. Made only by

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ARE:  
Self Contained, requiring no brick setting. Without Gaskets or Packing, and are thus always tight.  
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Thousands in use and all giving satisfaction.

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